

Friendship

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April 2008

The English News Magazine of the Diocese of Taiwan

BISHOP'S LETTER



We recently had a gathering of all our clergy in the Epiphany Chapel, here at the Diocesan Office. The clergy came for a service to renew their vows and to bless the oils, but early in the morning, before they arrived, I went to the

chapel to pray. I knelt down and I reviewed my life. 38 years ago I wrote down a motto, a personal statement, a prayer that would be mine for life. 'May Almighty God be my personal master and my Lord, in charge of all my life. May my daily life always be filled with joy, and may I always be ready to help others. May I use integrity and humility to deal with everything and everyone, in all business dealings, and in all mission and service'. I reviewed this as I prayed that morning in the chapel. I calmly and honestly tried to face my life. Have I really followed this motto throughout my life? Have I really followed

the teaching of the Bible with a joyful and peaceful heart? With this in my mind, I then welcomed the clergy to the meeting and service.

After the renewal of vows, and with deep peace in my heart, I let our clergy know that I proclaim the duty of Bishop. In my first Bishop's letter in 2001, I referred to the vow that I had made to serve as Bishop, and I shared it with the clergy again at the service. I asked all the clergy to always pray for me, that I can be a faithful servant of the Lord. I now ask all our brothers and sisters throughout the world to pray for my wife Lily and myself every day. I pray that we can be part of the true vine, and shine the true light, to stand firm, and to depend on the Lord with joyful hearts, giving glory to God.

Thank you for your prayers!
Bishop David Lai



Ordination Service of Rev. Sam Cheng at Grace Church, Tainan: March 29, 2008

ORDINATION OF REV. SAM CHENG 鄭慶三牧師: Saturday March 29, 2008

The Rev. Sam Cheng was ordained to the priesthood on Saturday March 29, in Grace Church, Tainan, surrounded and supported by family, friends, clergy and church members from all over the country. About 100 were there to celebrate! All the teachers of St. Andrew's Kindergarten (where Sam goes every week to lead a Bible study with the teachers) joined with the choir of Grace Church in the anthem. A large group from St. James' Church, Taichung, came in a coach and several cars to celebrate Sam's ordination. Although Tainan is Sam's home town, he spent much of his adult life in Taichung, where he was a member and junior warden of St. James' Church. His career as a high school teacher of geography ended at age 50, when Sam felt called to the ordained ministry. He retired and entered Tainan Theological College for 3 years of theological training. After a year of ministry at St. Andrew's Kindergarten, Jie-Ding, and All Saints' Church, Kang-shan, Sam was assigned to Grace Church 6 months ago. His wife, Julie, was a teacher in elementary schools in the



Taichung area, and she also retired at the same time as her husband. They have a daughter who is a teacher in the Taichung area, and a son who has just finished his military service. Sam's nephew and his wife have recently been baptized at Grace Church, and their family now take an active part in the church activities. Please pray for Sam and his family and for their new ministry.

GRACE CHURCH, TAINAN

Rev. Sam Cheng Ching-San 鄭慶三牧師

Grace Church was thrilled to hold this ordination service, and we are pleased to welcome our new vicar, Rev. Sam Cheng and his wife! They have started aerobics classes and table tennis at Grace Church; often the ladies attend aerobics, while their husbands come to table tennis. All classes are free. In the course of a week, a total of about 40 people join in the classes and friendships are being established. Some have even started coming to church and bringing their children to the newly-established Sunday School.

EASTER AND THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

Easter Eve, March 22, 2008, was also the date of Taiwan's Presidential election. We thank God that the election went smoothly and that they were free and fair. Both Bishop Lai and Dean Samuel Lin were interviewed by telephone from Hong Kong for the Ecumenical Church News. Bishop Lai reported how proud he felt that Taiwan is becoming more and more mature in its democracy. Even

though a new president from the opposition party was elected, there were no riots or mass protests, and the democratic process was accepted peacefully. We thank God for this election, and we pray for the new president, Mr. Ma Ying-Jeou and his new government, due to be sworn in on May 20.

E.A.M. IS COMING!

The annual consultation for the Episcopal Asia-America Ministry of ECUSA will be held in Kaohsiung this summer. We request your prayers for this great event! For more information, do look at the EAM website, under 'consultations'. E.A.M. includes Japanese, Chinese, Taiwanese, Korean and Filipino congregations and church members of ECUSA.

Extract from the letter of invitation on the EAM website:

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of Christ "who holds all things together."

Welcome!

Upon invitation from the Rt. Rev. David Lai, Bishop of Taiwan, this year's EAM Annual Consultation will be held at the Grand Hotel and Cheng Ching Lake Youth Activity Center in Kaohsiung Taiwan on June 6 – 10, 2008. You are warmly invited to join us at this event.

EAM Consultations are designed to provide continuing education and training opportunities in the context of collegiality, collaboration and community. This year's theme is, "*Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: Mission & Evangelism in an Age of Globalization*. The Rev. Canon Soh Chye Ann, itinerant evangelist, missionary and entrepreneur, will be the keynote speaker.

The following is a glance at the events:



- o Opening Eucharist at 5:00 p.m. with the Rt. Rev. David Lai as celebrant and the Rev. Dr. Winfred Vergara as preacher.
- o The EAM Council will host the hospitality gathering from 9:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. on June 6 while the Chinese Convocation will host on June 7.
- o Sabbath and special activities: On Sunday, June 8th, a shuttle bus will transport the participants to St. Timothy's Church for the Sunday Worship/Eucharist. Lunch will be served after the service to be followed by Cultural Immersion experiences as led by members of the Diocese of Taiwan.
- o Commissioning Service: We are honored by the presence of the Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, who will be our preacher. An Asian Primate in attendance will be the celebrant.

EAM Banquet: It will be on Monday, June 9th following the Commissioning Service. Participants are encouraged to wear ethnic/native dress during the banquet.....

We look forward to a time of renewing as well as meeting and making new friends at this Consultation in the wonderful Episcopal Diocese of Taiwan, which is part of Province VIII of The Episcopal Church.

Faithfully in Christ,

The Rev. Winfred B. Vergara,
Program Officer for Asian American Ministries

The Rev. Dr. Fran Toy, President, EAM Council.

CLERGY RETREAT

We are very excited about this event! Also in attendance will be the retired Bishop of Hawaii, the Rt. Rev. Richard Chang. He and his wife Dee, have kindly accepted Bishop Lai's invitation to arrive several days earlier, and to lead a retreat for the clergy and their spouses from June 2-4.



They knew him in the breaking of the bread

DIOCESAN ANNUAL CONVENTION
Friday February 29 — Saturday March 1, 2008

The annual Diocesan Convention was held for the first time in the magnificent new Education Building of St. James' Church, Taichung. The main meetings were held on the 7th floor where there was just enough room for everyone, with just enough room for the tables to run lengthways down the room. On the upstairs balcony, refreshments of fruit, cakes and drinks were served.

There were a total of 77 registered participants and observers, and in addition members of St. James' congregation volunteered their services. We are very grateful to the clergy, vestry and members of St. James' for their warm welcome and gracious hospitality.

We were also particularly honored to welcome some honorable guests and long-time friends, as follows:

Mr. Peter Ng from New York represented ECUSA, and also brought a letter of greetings from Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts-Schori.

Ms. Mimi Wu from Hawaii, represented Province VIII of ECUSA.

Rev. Douglas Fenton from New York, Officer of Young Adults Ministry, ECUSA.

Rev. Peyton and Mrs. Mary Craighill, long-time residents of Taiwan and friends of this Diocese, took the opportunity to renew friendships and have fellowship with their many old friends!

Next year's annual convention will take place at St. Timothy's Church, Kaohsiung.

From the Diocesan Handbook 2007:
Participants in Church Activities around the Diocese:

<u>Church ↓</u>	<u>Age Range →</u>	<u>Under 19</u>	<u>20-39</u>	<u>40-59</u>	<u>Over 60</u>
St. John's Cathedral		28	43	56	39
Good Shepherd Church		23	25	57	16
Advent Church		27	35	41	22
St. James' Church		30	33	41	10
All Saints' Church		20	15	20	15
St. Timothy's Church		35	23	34	10
Trinity Church		25	16	16	3
Leading Star		6	3	4	3
St. Peter's Church		8	5	14	13
Grace Church		0	2	16	7
St. Paul's Church		15	18	32	7
St. Mark's Church		8	6	15	8
St. Luke's Church		8	3	6	2
<u>TOTAL</u>		<u>233</u>	<u>227</u>	<u>352</u>	<u>155</u>

TAIWAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH: RECORDS FOR 2007

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>BAPTISMS</u>	<u>CONFIRMATIONS</u>	<u>AVERAGE SUNDAY SERVICE ATTENDANCE</u>
St. John's Cathedral	6	0	115
Good Shepherd Church	8	7	Chinese Service: 64 English Service 32 Combined Service: 72
Advent Church	5	11	77
St. James' Church	2	2	Chinese Service: 53 English Service: 9
All Saints' Church	0	0	30
St. Timothy's Church	20	21	73
Trinity Church	13	9	Sunday Service: 46 Saturday pm Service: 30
Leading Star	4	1	14
St. Peter's Church	1	0	Chinese Service: 25 Taiwanese Service: 28
Grace Church	1	0	24
St. Paul's Church	8	2	39
St. Mark's Church	4	0	28
St. Luke's Church	0	0	13
<u>TOTAL for 2007</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>772</u>
<u>TOTAL for 2006</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>40</u>	
<u>TOTAL for 2005</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>34</u>	



*The Lord is my shepherd,
there is nothing I shall want*

Right photo: The first meeting of the new Standing Committee after their election at the Annual Diocesan Convention



ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH, TAICHUNG, TAIWAN
VISIT TO THE DIOCESE OF THE CENTRAL PHILIPPINES

January 21-24, 2008.

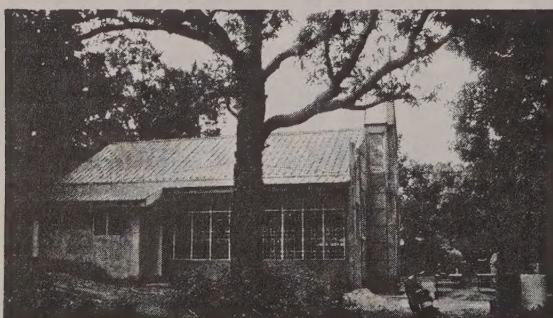
We give grateful thanks to Almighty God for His protection, blessing and grace on this, St. James' fourth visit to the Diocese of the Central Philippines. We were warmly welcomed by everyone, and we would like to express our sincere thanks especially to Bishop Dixie Taclobao, Prime Bishop Ignacio C. Soliba, and to Mrs. Kate Botengan. We very much appreciate the gracious hospitality and the wonderful meals. We were wined and dined from morning to night! We also had the honor of visiting St. Stephen's Church and School, and were grateful for the very warm welcome we received there. Special thanks must also go to the Diocesan staff for their hospitality, transportation and for taking care of all the logistics.

The purpose of this trip was primarily to visit some of the churches recently constructed with financial assistance from St. James' Episcopal Church, Taichung, Taiwan; and also to visit communities where future churches could be built. We were able to visit 2 of the new churches: Holy Innocents' Church and Christ the Lord Church, and we were warmly welcomed by Rev. Leon Catsap and his family. We were pleased to see the new church buildings, and that new concrete steps had recently been built at Holy Innocents, together with fresh painting of the woodwork. At Christ the Lord there is clearly an active church community with regular worship, teaching and outreach. Praise the Lord!

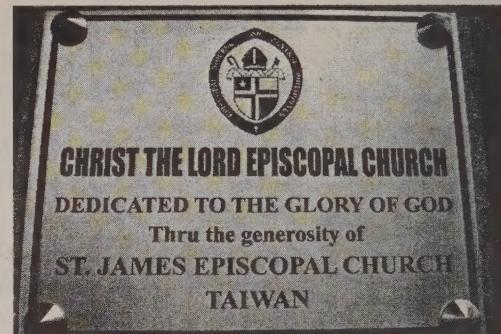
The 3 future churches are:

1. VILLA LABRADOR MISSION, NUEVA ECIJA.

Villa Labrador is about an hour from St. Mark's Church, San Jose, (about 6 hours drive from Ma-



Holy Innocents Church



nila) and under the care of the Rev. James Boliget. He has 5 church congregations, and only one, St. Mark's, has a good church building. The reason for choosing Villa Labrador rather than the other church congregations is that this one has the most potential. For the past year the congregation has been meeting in a temporary shelter with a grass roof. At present they meet once a month for the Eucharist with average attendance of 50-60 people. They have already had 6 baptisms and 3 confirmations in the year that they have been meeting together. One of the church members has offered a large building lot at half price for the new church building. Bishop Dixie confirms that if a new church is built there, then he hopes to send a church worker or priest to be based in San Jose and to take care of this new church community.

2. ST. GREGORY'S CHURCH, SUBURBAN MANILA

This is under the care of Fr. Ned Mapangdol, who took us to see the present church and later the building lot for the new church. The local community owns the land of the present church, but under a Memorandum of Agreement signed about 10 years ago (intended to last for 50 years), the Episcopal Church agreed to build a church on that land, and to maintain it. The money was loaned from the Diocese and is still being repaid. The church building is in poor condition due to lack of maintenance. Not too far away in a more secluded neighborhood where many of the church members live, a plot of land was bought by the Diocese about 6 years ago. The lot could hold not only a church, but also a rectory if needed. The main challenge in this area is security.

A local lady is the catechist and about 40 people

gather for worship each Sunday. We gathered at the home of the catechist for coffee, and saw clearly that the church community there is very active and prayerful.

3. PALAWAN

Bishop Dixie shared with us his vision to build a new church in Palawan. This is a long narrow island south-west of Manila, and the site of the new church would be in the mountains of the south. To get there, we would need to fly for an hour from Manila to the island's main town, and then drive for 5 hours. Malaria is common in this area. The local people are aborigines, who have gradually been pushed further and further back into the mountains by those who have settled in the more accessible areas. Many small church congregations have already been established, served by a catechist who has a huge missionary zeal and a great desire to preach the Gospel. This area has no church building, so Bishop Dixie hopes to build a church which could serve as a worship center for this remote and widespread community. It is one of the fastest growing missions of the whole Diocese, with many new congregations being started up, often by the local people themselves who are spreading the Gospel by word and example. Great news!

Our hope is to raise the needed money for these 3 future church buildings – 2 for this coming year, and the third for the following year. The amount for each church building is approximately 1 million pesos (about US\$ 26,000 or NT\$ 800,000). This is our vision! We earnestly pray and trust God that this vision could become a reality very soon. Please join us!

Catherine Lee: January 25, 2008

Bishop Dixie Taclobao, Rev. Charles and MaryJo Chen



STOP PRESS: St. James' has already received the money for the first 2 churches through an anonymous donation. Praise God!

ST. JAMES' CHURCH, TAICHUNG

Rev. Philip Lin Li-Feng 林立峯牧師

We have some exciting new developments as a result of our new Education Building, and we have been very active in setting up classes and activities for both adults and children, a sort of community center Education by Extension program. This semester there are more than 20 classes running in the Education Building, all open to the public. Classes for adults include Latin Dancing, English, choir, decorative artwork, the world of coffee, exercise, patchwork, flower arranging; while for children there are classes including choir, guitar, drama and English. Class fees are very reasonable, and there are discounts for church members and families already involved in the kindergarten. We hope that this can be a way to reach out to the community, make friends and create opportunities to share the gospel with them.

Our other good news is that our former rector, Rev. Charles C. T. Chen, has become Priest Emeritus with an advisory role at St. James' (顧問牧師). Charles has served as St. James' Kindergarten Supervisor for many years, and this appointment will make good use of Charles' many years of wisdom and experience, as well as an opportunity to integrate the work of church and kindergarten more closely.



Happy children at Christ the Lord Church!

THE CRAIGHILLS RETURN TO THEIR BELOVED TAIWAN

By Rev. Peyton Craighill

Fifty years ago this week I landed for the first time at Taipei Airport. Four years later my fiancée Mary arrived for an April wedding in the chapel of Tainan Theological College. We stayed for twenty years, with seventeen of them on the faculty of the seminary, followed by half a year in Taipei, where I served as archdeacon of the Diocese. In 1978 church authorities decided that I had completed my work of educating a local leadership for the Church and called us to relocate to America.

But our hearts were still in Taiwan. We were overjoyed, therefore, when after my retirement in 1995, our dear friend and colleague, the Rev. Charles C. T. Chen, invited us to St. James, Taichung, to pastor the English-language congregation and teach English in their kindergarten. At St. James we added two more years to our Taiwan mission.

All this provides background for the joyous two weeks that we just experienced at the end of February and beginning of March. For the past four years, I worked as middleman between our two artists in Boston and the church committee of Advent Church at St. John's University, on the construction of a magnificent skylight for the tower over the central altar of the church. Because I had been so involved in the project, Bishop Lai invited me to preach the sermon (in Chinese!) at the dedication of the skylight. You can imagine how overjoyed I was to accept the invitation, especially because Mary also was invited. And so after eleven years, once more we returned together to our family-in-Christ in our beloved land. Now I've been asked to comment on what it was like to be back in a society in which we were so intensely involved for twenty-one years.

As I observe Taiwan, I perceive it in layers of time – fifty, thirty, and eleven years past slices. I also see the surface layer of life and the deeper realities underlying the outer facade. What did I see this time in society as a whole and in the life of our diocese in particular?



Peyton and Mary with Bishop Lai in Bishop's office

Since I'm writing an article and not a book, I'll struggle to be concise. First, what did I see when I gazed down out of my tenth-storey guest room window onto the campus of St. John's University? My initial vision was of the rice fields that covered the landscape on my first visit to the site. Next I saw what was there on my second visit – simple rows of red brick buildings that had appeared out of the ground, and faculty and students scurrying around them, breathing life into that newly-established institute. This time I saw a remarkably sophisticated campus with seven thousand students putting to use a library, laboratories, sports facilities, and a chapel that many academic institutions of its size in America would be proud to have – and all this happening in forty years!

As I visited with faculty, students, and chaplains, I found an institution that, like Taiwan as a whole, is struggling to find its new identity as it moves from its old life as a technical institute to its new status as a university. What does the future hold for the society it serves? No one, of course, knows. But this doesn't stop people from forging ahead, building a new Taiwan in manifold ways.

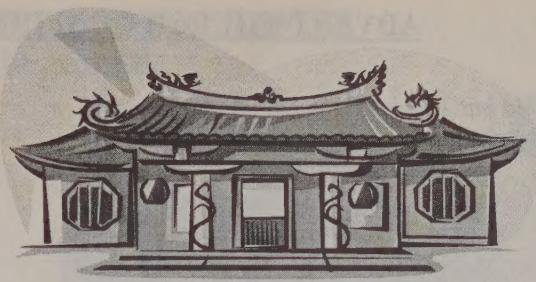
From Taipei, Mary and I moved on to our location of eleven years ago, St. James, Taichung. In the spirit of Taiwan that I just outlined, the church has built a new eight-storey building for its kindergarten and a new social service program, particularly aimed at the elderly. I discovered there as elsewhere that the generation of clergy that I

helped educate are almost all retired. But fortunately a bright, committed younger generation has risen to take their place. Most of these are graduates of what is now St. John's University – once again indicating what a resource we have in that university.

It's interesting to note, that, as with other societies that are switching from a rural-agrarian to an urban-industrial economy, parents have discovered that children have changed from being an economic asset to a liability. Consequently the fertility rate has dropped significantly, which means fewer kids for the many, competing kindergartens. Fortunately, St. James Kindergarten is holding its own. But this explains the tendency that's taking place in church ministry to move from children to the elderly.

Another phenomenon worth mentioning is that both St. John's and St. James are ringed by new, glamorous, high-rise apartments. In the case of St. James, these apartments are being filled by younger families in which those employed are in businesses that can be operated out of their homes. Many of these businesses are in Mainland China. Since Taichung has developed the reputation for being the most pleasant place in Taiwan to live, many are deserting crowded Taipei to enjoy the surroundings of St. James and the new age of technology.

Finally down to our real home, Tainan. For me, Tainan is the most bewildering city of all. Because of its location near the west coast and because the north and west sides of the city have long been dominated by fish farms, the city's



older residential areas are to the south and east. However recent expansion has been predominantly to the west on land reclaimed from fish farms. For many years, the central cultural and business area was the city I knew and loved. Now that's an outgrown remnant of the past. All the glamour and glitz has moved out to areas that in my day were paddy fields and fish farms. Even the older seminary area is dominated by high rises that I would never have dreamed of.

Thank the Lord; the seminary campus remains much as it was when our children were growing up there. We are in awe over the upsurge of the new Taiwan – but we cherish the old, familiar surroundings.

On our last day, we had the ultimate experience of new Taiwan – a ride to the airport on the high-speed railway. And when I say high-speed, I'm not exaggerating. The train moves at 180 mph. The trip from Taipei in the north to Kaohsiung in the south that in the distant past used to take seven hours, now takes less than an hour and a half. And the constantly jammed north-south expressway that dominated our lives eleven years ago has now turned into a fast-moving network of six expressways.

So here's the parable of Taiwan. Everything is glitzier, more sophisticated, and faster moving. But what lies under the surface glitz? The Spirit of Christ is as present now in its society as it was when I arrived fifty years ago. But are people listening for his Good News? Thank God the Church is there and alive and has put down roots in native soil. In the Episcopal Church a new generation of leaders has lifted up the torch and is carrying it into the future.

Rev. Dr. Peyton Craighill. Holy Week 2008.



Mary Craighill (far right) being reunited with Mrs. Chao and her family, Bishop and Mrs. Lai

ADVENT CHURCH CONFIRMATIONS: February 24, 2008

We held our Thanksgiving Service for the new stained glass artwork on Saturday February 23, 2008. The church was filled with visitors from all over Taiwan and the world. Special guests of honor included the Rev. Dr. Peyton Craighill and his wife Mary from Pennsylvania, USA, and Mr. Lyn Hovey and his wife Chief Caring Hands of the Natick Praying Indian Tribe of Massachusetts, USA. An artist, Mr. Lyn Hovey designed and made the stained glass. Also honored in the

Thanksgiving Service was Mr. Michio Ihara, the artist who made the Jacob's Ladder sculpture; and especially the wonderful team of engineers, metal-workers, joiners, fitters and construction workers who worked so well to fit the artwork in place. Bishop Lai led the Thanksgiving Service with special blessing on the new artwork, and the Rev. Peyton Craighill preached. Everyone who sees the artwork for the first time is awed by its magnificence and beauty. To God be the glory!



Distinguished guests at Advent Church Thanksgiving Service

From L to R: Mr. Lyn Hovey, Rev. Peyton Craighill, Bishop Lai, Mrs. Mary Craighill, Mrs. Lily Lai, Chief Caring Hands



Installation of the sculpture;
Engineer Michael, Mr. Lyn Hovey and Mr. Michio
Ihara



ADVENT CHURCH THANKSGIVING SERVICE February 23-24, 2008.

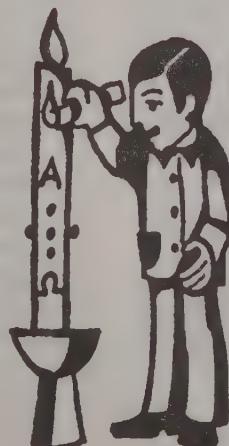
The following day after the Thanksgiving Service, Bishop Lai returned to Advent Church for a confirmation service. 6 people were confirmed, seen here in these 2 photos. The Rev. Peyton Craighill preached again. He had a very busy 2 weeks in Taiwan! Both the Craighills and the Hoveys spent the following week in Tamsui sharing meals with old friends. Peyton also gave 2 lectures at St. John's University, and preached again the following weekend at St. James' Church, Taichung. We very much enjoyed their visit. At the time of writing, the outside of Advent Church is still waiting for some fine weather to finish the outstanding work—that of painting the outside of the church building.



Confirmation

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

The Easter Vigil is traditionally when we hold the Easter baptisms. This year 5 young people were baptized. 3 of them mentioned in Friendship Magazine last year, were not able to get consent from their parents for their baptisms. This year we were delighted that these 3 young men, all active members of our student fellowship and summer mission program, were able to be baptized. The other 2 young women were local former students here.



Easter Day was marked by joyful celebrations as 70 people in 2 coaches from Trinity Church, Keelung came to worship with us. A large number of them were from St. Stephen's Centre, Trinity Church. They sang and danced, and also reported on how things were going at St. Stephen's. The offering from the church collection was donated to the work of St. Stephen's Centre. After the service, we all ate together in the university restaurant. It was a great day for all!

You who are members of the St. John's University community are fortunate indeed. You now have in your church an artwork of world class quality. I have come all the way from the east coast of the United States to be at its dedication. In the future, there may be others like me, coming from long distances to see that which can inspire you every day.

I dare say that you know very little about the art form that is at the heart of this artwork. Since Taiwan has very little stained glass, you have had few chances to see examples of it or to learn much about it. Consequently, I'm going to use this opportunity to tell you something about the meaning and history of stained glass.

In most places in Europe and America, you will find churches with stained glass windows. Why is this? What is special about stained glass that makes church members want to use it in places of worship?

It's the fact that stained glass lets the light through. When you look at an ordinary picture, you see it because light reflects off of it. But when you look at a stained glass picture, you see it because the light comes through it.

In a church at night, you can see the ordinary pictures on the wall because the lights inside the church make them visible. But because the sun has gone down and is no longer there to shine through the stained glass windows, you won't be able to see them. They will be dark. The sun must be there for them to light up.

Symbolically, this is important to Christians. It reminds us of something that's significant to us about our relationship with God. We believe that whenever Christians do things good, credit for the good deeds belongs not to the believers but to God. The Christian does good, but he knows that he doesn't do it for his own glory. It is God working through him that makes the deed possible. When we look at a saint in a stained glass window, we don't look at the saint. We look through the saint to the light of Christ that makes him bright. The sun symbolizes the light of God. The window adds the color and form to the picture, indicating the personal gifts that those in the picture bring to

the scene. Every other picture we look AT. Only a stained glass picture can we look through. An ordinary picture is like a wall, stopping our gaze at its surface. A stained glass picture is like a window that we see through to the light that shines in heaven. This is the symbolic reason that we like to use stained glass for church art.



But there's a practical reason as well. There are two other kinds of artwork that we have in churches. One is pictures that are painted. The other is pictures that we call mosaics. This kind of picture is made out of small squares of glass, stone, and tile. You are familiar with mosaic pictures because this art form is common in Taiwan. Painted pictures have the most variety and style to them, but they have one great drawback. Sunlight shining on them will soon fade their colors. With enough time, some pictures will actually disappear. We know that the walls in some great churches were completely covered with paintings, now those walls are bare. Mosaics hold up better, but with time even they can fade. Stained glass pictures never fade. The reason for this is that the color is mixed in with the glass when the glass is melted. There's some painting done on the glass to provide detail, but this is usually done in black that doesn't fade. In cathedrals where the painted walls are now bare, stained glass windows are as bright as ever.

The history of stained glass windows in churches is a fascinating story. It tells us a great deal about changes in the Christian community both in their faith and in their technical ability to build churches.

We know very little about the beginning of stained glass windows in churches. There is evidence that wealthy Romans used stained glass in their homes as early as the first century A.D., but on a limited basis. The earliest church windows of which we have a record come from the tenth century. I have seen the earliest surviving window in Britain. It's

located in what once was a monastery chapel in northeast England. It consists of a circle about three feet in diameter and is all abstract design. In the first thousand years of Christian history, the walls of big churches were built thick because they had to hold up the weight of the church roof. In weight-bearing walls, windows had to be relatively small but letting in as much light as possible. This didn't encourage the development of large, elaborate stained glass.

All this changed in the middle of the Twelfth Century. At this time in France, a whole new way of building churches was developed. We now call this gothic architecture. In this style, large pillars hold up an elaborate set of arches on which the roof rests. The pillars and arches are so big and numerous that walls are not needed to hold up the roof. Thus large windows can fill in vast spaces between the pillars. Using gothic architecture, churches could be built that were almost completely surrounded by windows. This made possible the development of stained glass windows covering vast areas in the buildings. The twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth centuries were the high water-mark for stained glass windows.

The fifteenth and sixteenth centuries brought in the Renaissance in Western Europe. A new spirit of humanism changed the focus in society away from the heavenly vision down to human affairs. A new interest developed in the classical architecture of Greece and Rome. In this environment, the gothic architecture of the previous three centuries began to look old fashioned. Churches were built that looked more like Greek and Roman temples than like gothic cathedrals. In this more humanistic, rationalistic style, there was little room for the exalted mysticism of medieval stained glass.

Another major change was brought by the Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Protestant leaders began to turn back to the Bible and in particular to the Ten Commandments. There they found the commandment rejecting idolatry. For them this meant elimination of any kind of pictorial art in churches. During the seventeenth century wars between Catholics and Protestants, many Evangelical extremists spent much time destroying the beautiful stained glass windows in the medieval churches in the name of religious purity. As a result of these developments, the stained glass industry almost died out.

Who would have predicted that in the nineteenth century, the art of stained glass would be revived? Yet this is just what happened. People in Europe and America had enough of dry, cerebral rationalism. Reaction led to the rise of a romantic counter-movement. Once again, the medieval age of faith was exalted over humanism. Neo-gothic churches began to rise again in many places. And as they were built, they required stained glass for their windows. In the twentieth century, this movement continued to grow. Along with traditional imitations of medieval designs, artists felt the influence of modern art. Contemporary church designs required a different approach.

Now we look to what Lyn Hovey and Michio Ihara have done for Advent Church. The most unusual feature of the design is that it is three-dimensional. Every stained-glass window that I have seen before has been two-dimensional. Only high technical craftsmanship would make this artwork possible. How fitting it is that in a school that specializes in technology, a work of such transcendent imagination could bring together technical brilliance and a breathtaking flight of vision! And to top it off, metal sculpture, also a product of modern technology has been combined with the ancient craft of stained glass to bring together the best of the old and the new.

This new liturgical artwork in Advent Church represents the dawn of the light of Christ breaking over the island of Taiwan and the people's response to the light in the offering up of their prayers of thanksgiving and praise. Let us hope that this light truly will spread from here to every corner of this land – and even beyond.



PEOPLE WITH A VISION!

From R to L: Engineer Michael, Rev. Lennon Chang and his wife Hannah, Mr. Lyn Hovey, Mr. Michio Ihara.

REFLECTION FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER: March 2008

Catherine Lee

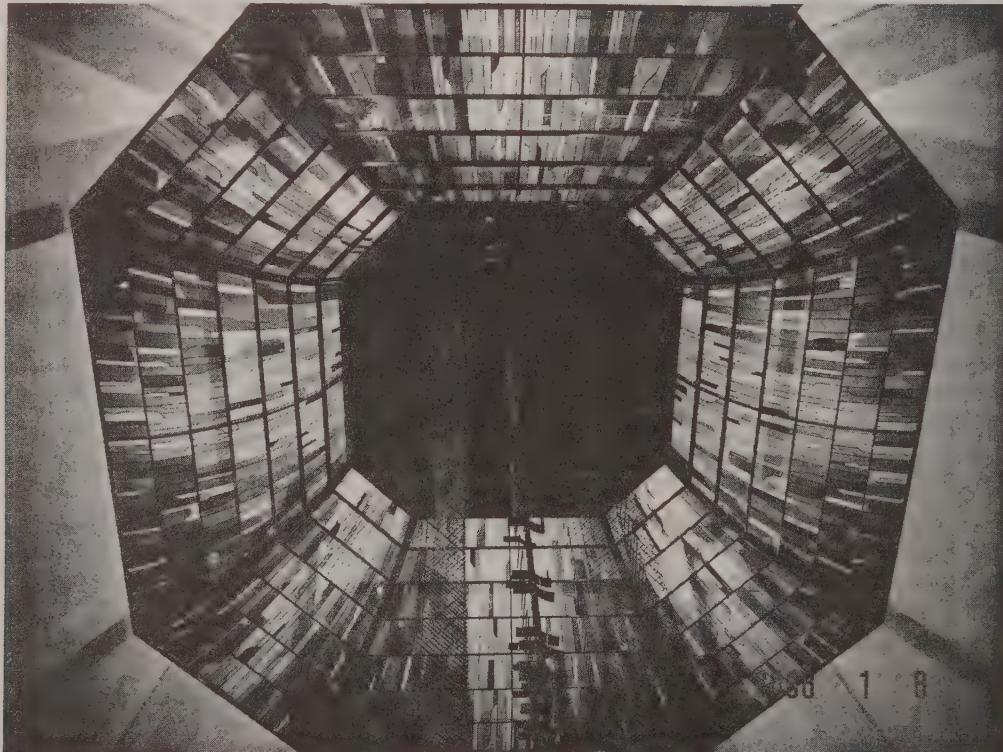
Over Chinese New Year I had the opportunity to visit New Zealand. On the last Sunday I joined my friends for worship in their home church. The church itself is built right next to a small airport, used mainly by light aircraft. The large window behind the altar was of clear glass, and through the window there was a view of trees, hills and sky. That Sunday morning, as we were praying the final post-communion prayer (the one where we are sent out into the world in the power of the Spirit, to live and work to God's praise and glory), suddenly through that altar window I saw in the distance a helicopter plummeting head-first towards the ground, followed by pieces of wreckage. The few of us in the congregation who saw it knew that a crash was inevitable, with almost certain death for the pilot. Later we discovered that a light plane had collided in mid-air with the helicopter, both then crashed onto neighbouring houses and shops, and all 3 people onboard died.

Six days later, I was back in Taiwan, and attending the Thanksgiving Service for the new stained glass in Advent Church. The artwork is magnificent, full of blues, yellows and reds; with a Jacob's ladder sculpture hanging down towards the altar from

the centre. The altar itself is of marble, and usually left bare, reminding us of the stone that Jacob slept on when he had his dream of the angels ascending and descending the ladder. The top of the sculpture, the flat part of the ceiling, is covered in mirrors, giving an impression of never-ending ladders, going on and on, up and up into eternity. The whole artwork vividly depicts the glory of God and the light of Christ, with the ladders calling us to come closer to God in prayer, joining heaven and earth in one glorious whole.

What a huge contrast between those 2 images. One glass window invites us to look out at the world; the other invites us to look up at the glory of God. Through one window I saw images of death and destruction; in another I saw images of the glory of God and the light of Christ. Holy Week and Easter! Yet in both church services I heard words of how God sends us to take His light out into the dark world, and I also heard words of invitation to bring the concerns of the world to Him in prayer. We are indeed called to do both, to do our part in reconciling the world with God, and God with the world.

A BELATED HAPPY EASTER!



ST. PETER'S CHURCH, CHIA-YI

Rev. Keith Lee Jen-Cheng 李鎮丞牧師

February 7 was the first day of the Lunar Chinese New Year, and it was also the Thanksgiving Day of our diocese, so we had a thanksgiving worship in the morning to welcome the beginning of the New Year.

During Holy Week we had special liturgies, and as it coincided with the last week of the presidential election campaign, we also prayed for the election in all our services. At the same time, we sought to withdraw from the noise of all the election activities outside, by walking with Christ on His Passion, and by being with Christ in remembering God's love and grace.

On Easter Sunday, we had an outdoor field worship at Calamondin Farm, Min-hsiung, and we were very happy that Bishop and Mrs. Lai were also able to join us.

Our weekend activity for children is now running for the second semester. We thank God for these children. We also thank Ms. Wen-i Liu for her assistance in cultivating our garden. We have a beautiful church garden as a result!



Bishop Lai preaching at the outside Easter Day worship



St. Peter's Church, Chia-Yi celebrate Easter with Bishop and Mrs. Lai with a worship service at Calamondin Farm
There are actually 4 clergy in this photo: Rev. Jason Ke, Rev. Richard Ou, Rev. Keith Lee, and Bishop Lai!

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, TAIPEI

Rev. Samuel Lin Ying-Chiou 林應求牧正

We are pleased to report that there now have 25-30 children in our Sunday School; 20 are children of church members and 5 are local children. This marks very good progress for the Sunday School! Other exciting news are the house groups. There are now 4 groups meeting, one on Wednesdays and three on Sundays. Alpha has also been progressing well, and has been meeting now for 4 years.



ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, HUA-LIEN

Mr. Timothy Chen Jer-Ren 陳致仁傳道

A Morning Prayer service was held on the first day of Chinese New Year. Our entire Chinese congregation gave thanks to God for the past year and some shared their testimonies; all of us prayed that God would lead and bless us in the coming year. During Holy Week, there were services held on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil. The congregation eagerly attended the services and most of them were deeply touched by God's sacrificial love. On Easter Day, an outdoor Morning Prayer and picnic were held at the Mei-Liam Mountain.

ST. MARK'S CHURCH, PING-TUNG

Mrs. Grace Yang Li-Shiang 楊麗香傳道

The Rev. Daniel Lee Chang-Rong, Vicar, has resigned for personal reasons, so Bishop Lai has moved parish worker Mrs. Grace Yang, from Leading Star Church to serve at St. Mark's. Please pray for her, and for our church members, as we work together for the glory of God to serve the people of Ping-Tung. There are regular activities for children every weekend. About 20 people went to the Nature Garden on Easter Day for a service.



CHURCH OF THE LEADING STAR, TAIPING

With the departure of parish worker Mrs. Grace Yang, to serve at St. Mark's Church, Ping-Tung, the Church of the Leading Star now has no full-time worker. The church is being looked after by St. James' Church, Taichung, and the Rev. Philip Lin, who visits on a regular basis for services and activities. Please pray for our small Christian community.



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, KAOHSIUNG.

Rev. June Chou Yun-Guang 周耀光牧師

St. Paul's Church had a confirmation service on April 6 in which 6 people were confirmed. One of them was Mr. Su Guo-Ching 蘇國卿傳道. He is married to the youngest daughter of Rev. Richard Ou, who was the first Taiwanese priest ordained in the Taiwan Episcopal Church. Rev. Ou and his wife are now retired and live in Tainan, where his wife continues to serve as Supervisor of St. Andrew's Kindergarten, Jie-Ding. Mr. Su, aged 40, was a Presbyterian, trained at Tainan Theological College to serve as a minister. However his father-in-law has encouraged him to consider moving to the Episcopal Church and serving here, so he has now made the first step, by being confirmed. Mr. Su was prepared for confirmation by the Rev. Samuel Liao, recently retired rector of All Saints. In July Mr. Su will leave Tainan Theological College and formally start his period of training as an evangelist / parish worker in the Taiwan Episcopal Church. He and his wife have a baby

son, David. We warmly welcome them to the Episcopal Church!



ALL SAINTS CHURCH, KANG-SHAN

Rev. Leo Tzeng Wen-Bin 曾文斌牧師

With the retirement of Rev. Samuel Liao, the Rev. Leo Tzeng has been invited to serve at All Saints Church as Acting Rector for 6 months, after which he will be appointed Rector. All Saints has a largely senior congregation, so this is a challenge for their new young rector and his family. They have started by visiting all the church members. Many of our church members are Air Force families and their dependants, recently moved to new accommodation. Although many were afraid of what this move would involve, in general it has gone well and they are now happily settled in their new homes.

Please pray for Leo and his family as they settle into this new ministry here. Each Friday we have a Bible study which 5-7 people attend, also a small Sunday School recently started with 2 children. The church also has a guitar class for teenagers. A



credit union has been running in a small office attached to the church for many years now. It offers loans to local people, and has about 100 people currently using its services. Often its office is a hive of activity! The adjacent building is rented out to a local cram school, so children are also coming and going all afternoon.

The former rector, Rev. Samuel Liao and his wife have retired to Tainan, where they are very helpful to Rev. Sam Cheng as he settles into his new ministry at Grace Church. Rev. Samuel Liao continues to serve the Diocese on the Standing Committee, and on the Commission on Ministry, as well as helping with preaching in various churches. We thank him for his dedicated service, and pray for his upcoming eye surgery.

ST. TIMOTHY'S CHURCH, KAOHSIUNG

Rev. Justin Lin Jun-Ming 林俊明牧師

During the past year, 2007, St. Timothy's Church held 7 baptismal services, with a total of 20 people baptized. We also held 2 confirmations, with 21 people confirmed. This is wonderful news. Only 8 years ago, St. Timothy's was a brand new church, formed by 13 church members originally from St. Paul's. Now there is an average Sunday attendance of 73. We praise God for the growth of our church. This year, one of our projects is for church members to read through the whole Bible in one year. Please pray for St. Timothy's as we mature and grow together as a Christian community.

The Rev. Justin Lin will be extremely busy in the next few months with the arrangements for the EAM consultation in June. He and his team will be responsible for coordinating the arrivals and departures of over 200 people, as well as making sure that all are well taken care of! We would very much appreciate your prayers at this time, thank you!

The photo below shows the children leading the



Children's Month at St. Timothy's Church

Sunday worship. A recent Vestry meeting decided that for this year, the church would dedicate one month to each group and ministry of the church. The first of these was Children's Month, launched with Children's Sunday, and a month of activities culminating in a children's party at the end of the month. Special months to follow include those for women, men and youth; with December being a special month devoted to seniors.



St. Timothy's Children's Praise Service March 30, 2008

TRINITY CHURCH, KEELONG *Rev. Richard Lee Ray-Chiang 李瑞強牧師*
ST. STEPHEN'S CENTER *Mrs. Julia Lin Shu-Hua 林淑華傳道*

Bishop Lai has kindly assigned Parish Worker Mrs. Julia Lin to serve at the new St. Stephen's Center. Previously she served at St. Timothy's Church, Kaohsiung. Now she is able to develop a new ministry serving families in a low-income housing complex located near St. Stephen's. She reports that 70 per cent of these local families are single-parent families, and already outreach has started. The good news is that on May 11, St. Stephen's will be officially dedicated as a mission station, and on that day, the first local family of a mother and 2 children will be baptized there. Our vision

is that the present building will continue to be rented for the next 3 years, serving as a place of worship, classroom, activity and community center. Please pray for Julia and her team, as well as the outreach



program. Like St. Stephen himself, we face a lot of opposition.

Over the Chinese New Year vacation, Trinity Church held a winter camp for teenagers lasting several days and consisting entirely of Discipleship Training. 16 young people attended and all of them enjoyed the challenge of going out to the complex around St. Stephen's Center for evangelism. 84 people were prayed over by team members to receive Christ. Obviously a lot of follow-up is needed to make these commitments lasting. These young people have been active in forming a worship group and have had 4 Sundays of training, of 3 hours each Sunday. They are very keen Christians, and are a great encouragement to

St. Stephen's Center: teenagers outreach



the young people at St. Stephen's. At a social evening held at Chinese New Year, some of the teenagers shared their testimonies with the families at St. Stephen's. Parents, grandparents and children all attended, and listened to these young people share about the difference that Christ has made in their lives.

There are a group of 8 teenagers at Trinity Church, all in the first year of Junior High School. All of them have made commitments to follow Jesus, and all are enthusiastic to grow in their new-found faith. However until now, none has been allowed to be baptized, mostly because their parents refuse

to give their consent. Please pray for these young people.

At Easter Vigil Service, there was one baptism of a mother whose son has been active in the youth group for many years. He was delighted to share his faith with his mother and see her now baptized.



Easter Eve baptism at Trinity Church

On Easter Day, 2 coach loads from Trinity and St. Stephen's spent the day at Advent Church, joining in the worship and lunch. It was a great day of celebration for us all!

Easter came early for me this year. Half way into the season of Lent, I had the opportunity to visit two different religious organizations here; one Buddhist and one Christian; and in both cases after the visits, I felt "my heart burning within" me because of the faith of the two women in charge of the respective organizations.

Based in Hualien, the Eastern part of Taiwan, and established in 1966, Tzu Chi Foundation has been led by Dharma Master Cheng Yen, a Buddhist nun, for over 40 years. During the early days, the Foundation had very little resources. Only a few of the elderly women in the vicinity went there to help regularly. For food, they had to go to the local markets to pick the throw away vegetables for their meals. However this lack of resources did not deter Master Cheng Yen from "making incarnate the compassion of Budhisattvas". In fact that has been Master Cheng Ye's guiding vision for the Foundation; and not converting non-believers to Buddhism.

Her faith, her compassion, and the good works of the Foundation have moved even the government in donating land to the Foundation for its first hospital. It now has 6 hospitals, one university, one TV station, and several recycling centers in Taiwan. None of these

fruits have come easily, but Master Cheng Yen has the faith to follow through the path of compassion, and the courage to vision helping people anywhere in the world. And so Tzu Chi Foundation is now in 63 countries helping people in need. Moreover, people who benefited from the help of Tzu Chi often in turn become a part of the Foundation to help others.

After my visit to the Foundation, I am seeing better what Jesus meant when he said to Thomas "blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe", and my faith has been inspired by the faith of one Buddhist nun.

A week later, I visited St. Anne's Home, a residence for the severely mentally disabled; and to meet with Sr. Petronelly who is in charge. At age

84, Sr. Petronelly, a Roman Catholic nun from Holland, came to Taiwan 35 years ago for her ministry. When she first came, St. Anne's Home had nothing; she even had to sleep on top of the toilet. One summer Taipei was hit by a severe typhoon, and the city did not have water for a whole week. The area fire department, knowing the works of St. Anne's, delivered water to them to make sure everyone there was alright.

In the 35 years, the Home has been through different challenges and Sr. Petronelly has seen a lot, including abandoned babies on the front steps of the Home. She always faces challenges with faith and love. She never refuses to take in a baby or a child; she never worries if there would be enough finances to take care of the children. She believes God has called her to love the children, and God would take care of them. The Home currently is in 2 separate locations, but is ready to construct a new building to put all the children in 1 place.

Through this visit, my faith, too, has been inspired by the faith and love of one Roman Catholic nun.

During the seasons of Lent and Easter, members of the English-speaking congregation continued to live out our faith and love by volunteering in Animals Taiwan;

washing down walls and taking the waiting-to-be-adopted stray dogs for walks. We are also trying to establish a connection with St. Anne's Home. Will our love and faith help keep someone's heart burning? That would be God's grace

Blessings, Diane+



TLC from Sarah Lim



Kevin Roebel

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH CHINESE CONGREGATION

Rev. Lily Chang Ling-Ling 張玲玲牧師

We have had a very full Lent and Easter program of services and activities here at Good Shepherd!

During Lent, we had a Church Book Study. Every week we had a family gathering in different homes, each week there would be around 10 people in attendance. The book that we read and discussed was "Can You Drink The Cup?" by Henri Nouwen.

Just before Holy Week, 15 people gathered for a 2-day retreat, held in the Yang-Ming Shan Roman Catholic Church. The theme was 'Devotions for Holy Week'.

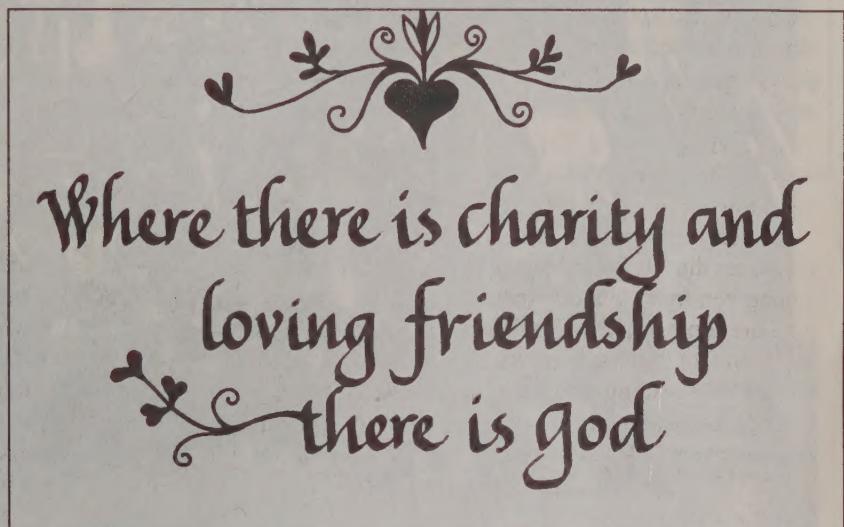
At Easter Vigil, we had 2 baptisms, including the daughter of one of our kindergarten cooks.

On Easter Day, we invited retired Bishop John Chien to preach, and he and his wife to share in the service with us. Bishop Chien is also a former Rector of Good Shepherd Church. Easter Day was his 68th birthday so we had an extra-special celebration!

In March, we started a new project to help the students of Yang-Ming High School, located opposite Good Shepherd Church. Our Senior

Warden, Mr. Tim Pan, holds an English Writing Class each Saturday afternoon for 2 hours to help about 10 students to prepare for their University Entrance Test.

We have had 2 groups of visitors recently to Good Shepherd. Both groups have come to find out more about the Episcopal Church. The first group was about 40 students from the Presbyterian



Theological College in Taipei. The second group was 10 students from the Department of Religion at Fu-Ren R. C. University. They came to attend a Sunday Service as part of their visit.

At Chinese New Year, the Good Shepherd Kindergarten invited the seniors from the community service department to come to the kindergarten for a Chinese New Year banquet. The children and seniors had lunch together, followed by a performance of singing and dancing by the children. After the performance, the seniors presented each child with a traditional 'hong-bao' (red envelope with money inside).

Whenever one of the seniors has a birthday, a small group of kindergarten children will visit them in their homes, to sing 'Happy Birthday' and to present the senior with a birthday cake. What a lovely way to celebrate!



Old and young celebrate birthdays together!

Trinity Church and St. Stephen's Center visit to Advent Church on Easter Day.
(Notice all the scaffolding on Advent Church, still waiting to be painted!)



LAMBETH CONFERENCE 2008

Bishop and Mrs. Lily Lai will be attending this year's Lambeth Conference starting on July 16, 2008. Mrs. Lai has been invited to speak at the Spouses' Conference at Lambeth, for 15 minutes on the subject of 'Married Life', and what it means for her to be married to a bishop. The invitation comes as a result of Mrs. Lai's testimony written at the request of Mrs. Jane Williams for a book she is producing for the Lambeth Conference about the lives and experiences of Bishop's spouses. The conference organizers have specifically asked Mrs. Lai to speak in Chinese, and there will be simultaneous translations into a variety of languages. We do congratulate Mrs. Lily Lai on this great honor!

Bishop and Mrs. Lai will leave Taiwan a week early and use the opportunity to visit some parishes in northern England before the conference starts. They will spend a few days in Heighington, near Darlington, Diocese of Durham, followed by a few days in Sedbergh, Cumbria, Diocese of Bradford. If you live near any of these parishes and would like to meet with Bishop Lai, do contact those churches. Bishop Lai has been invited to preach on Sunday morning, July 13, at Heighington Parish Church. All welcome!

For the visit to the churches in England, Bishop and Mrs. Lai will be accompanied by the Rev. Charles C. T. Chen and his wife MaryJo. We do wish them all a very special kind of visit!

CUAC Conference in Hong Kong

Both Bishop Lai and President Peter Yang of St. John's University will attend the 6th International Triennial Conference of CUAC (Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion) to be held in Chung Chi College, at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, from May 26-31, 2008. The conference will also include an overnight coach trip to Guangzhou, Mainland China, to visit universities and colleges there. The conference is a valuable opportunity for contacts to be made between colleges, and for new partnerships to be initiated and developed.

It was at the last Triennial conference held in the UK 3 years ago, that President Yang made contact

with the University of York St. John, in England. Now 3 years later, St. John's University, Taipei has started video conference links with York St. John. Professor Gillian Donnelly from York St. John is visiting St. John's University during April for the purpose of furthering this partnership. For this visit Professor Donnelly has received a grant from the British Council, under the 'Prime Minister's Initiative' Scheme, that seeks to encourage international partnerships between British universities and those overseas. There are only 40 such awards available, and 4 have been granted to York St. John, of which one is to be used for developing the partnership with St. John's University, Taiwan.



St. Timothy's Young People on their Church Training Camp
(Rev. Justin Lin is on the far left side)

臺灣聖公會通訊

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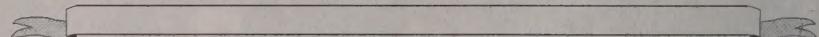
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The LORD bless you
and keep you always!

